



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture  
**Tennessee Field Office**  
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## **USDA to Collect Data on Farmland Rental Rates**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Beginning this month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact Tennessee farmers to gather land rental rate information for the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey. The results of this survey will serve as a valuable decision-making tool for farmers and can be used for 2018 rental agreement negotiations.

“This brief survey is our only source of collecting and publishing county cash rental rates,” said Debra Kenerson, Tennessee State Statistician. “By responding, producers ensure that they base their decisions on the most accurate data available.”

### **Data Uses**

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) uses cash rent county estimates to determine market-based rates in administering USDA programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- Other state and federal government agencies, universities, and research organizations use these data for other forms of economic analysis.
- The data provide farmers with current information about rental rates in their county and are available for their use in making decisions regarding renting and leasing farmland.

NASS will publish average cash rental rates at national, state and county levels for non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland Sept. 8, 2017.

More than 8,000 Tennessee farmers will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding online via a secure internet connection. In late March, NASS representatives will begin calling and visiting farmers who have not yet responded.

“NASS will combine responses from you and your fellow producers statewide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of Tennessee average rent and lease rates,” Kenerson added.

For more information about the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey, call Debra Kenerson at the NASS Tennessee Field Office on (615) 891-0903, or (800) 626-0987, or visit [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Tennessee/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Tennessee/).

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